

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00961 171720Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /039 W

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R 170940Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6937

INFO SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0961

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT, US, NATO

SUBJ: INVITATION FROM MINTOFF FOR ADMIRAL TURNER TO
VISIT MALTA

1. EMBASSY AND SHAPE WERE INFORMED BY USDOCOSOUTH ON
AUGUST 13 OF AN EFFORT BY GOM PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF TO
HAVE ADMIRAL TURNER VISIT MALTA PRIOR TO THE MALTESE
ELECTIONS. THE NEXT OF USDOCOSOUTH'S MESSAGE IS REPEATED
BELOW FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD.

2. BEGIN TEXT "THE MALTESE CONSUL IN NAPLES, MR. DI GIANNI,
CALLED ON ME TODAY BERING AN INVITATION FROM PRIME
MINISTER MINTOFF TO VISIT MALTA. MR. DI GIANNI REPEATED
MR. MINTOFF'S MESSAGE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND NATO
WERE IGNORING MALTA BECAUSE THIS WAS MR. KISSINGER'S
POLICY AND MINTOFF WAS DISPLEASED WITH IT. THERE WERE
SOME THINGS WHICH COULD ONLY BE DONE NOW, BEFORE THE
MALTESE ELECTIONS. I WOULD SUPPOSEDLY BE ABLE TO
ACCOMPLISH THEM DURING MY VISIT. MR. DI GIANNI WAS
UNABLE TO FIND OUT FROM MINTOFF SPECIFICALLY WHAT
"THESE THINGS" WERE.

"THIS APPEARS TO BE RATHER TRANSPARENT POLITICAL
PLOY BY MINTOFF TO GAIN PUBLICITY PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS.
I GAVE THE CONSUL NO ENCOURAGEMENT AND STATED THAT IN
MY POSITION AS A NATO COMMANDER I MUST STAY SCRUPULOUSLY
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PAGE 02 VALLET 00961 171720Z

CLEAR OF THIS ISSUE." END TEXT

3 COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS ADVISED USDOCOSOUTH OF THE
DATES OF THE MALTESE ELECTION AND THE FACT THAT MALTA'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO WILL BE A MAJOR CAMPAIGN ISSUE.
USDOCOSOUTH ALSO IS AWARE THAT OFFICIAL USG POLICY IS
ONE OF NEUTRALITY TOWARD ELECTION OUTCOME. END COMMENT.
WIGGINS

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NNN

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